FBI

Date: 4/11/67

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (92-2781)

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (92-1)

SANTO TRAFFICANTE, JR., aka
ANTI-RACKETEERING

ReBuairtel 3/31/67 instructing that I contact Attorney FRANK RAGANO and acknowledge receipt of his letter of March 27, 1967, to Director HOOVER.

As indicated by intervening communications, RAGANO was not available since he was out of town. On the morning of April 10, RAGANO was interviewed in my office, on his choice, in the presence of ASAC PHILIP R. SHERIDAN.

Transmitted herewith are a memorandum covering various phases discussed during the interview, and for New York and New Orleans a Xerox copy of letter of March 27, 1967, from Attorney FRANK RAGANO to Director HOOVER.

All offices note:

(1) Contacts with TRAFFICANTE through his attorney;

(2) TRAFFICANTE, on instructions of Attorney RAGANO, to utilize recorder on his person.

3 Bureau (enc.-3)
1 Miami (enc.-1) (92-28)
1 New York (enc.-2)
1 New Orleans (enc/02)
3 Tampa (92-1) (92-218) (92-234)
JFS:KH
(9)

REC-41 62-109060-5099

NOT RECORDED
199 APR 25 1967

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

1967 MAY 4

TP 92-1

RAGANO stated that some of the allegations involving TRAFFICANTE have been ridiculous, and he related the following to illustrate TRAFFICANTE's attitude:

While driving through New Orleans in MARCELLO's car, MARCELLO was driving and TRAFFICANTE was seated in the front seat and he (RAGANO) was in the back, when a radio broadcast related events concerning District Attorney GARRISON's escapades revolving around the assassination of President KENNEDY. SANTO turned and remarked to MARCELLO, "Carlos, the next thing you know they will be blaming the President's assassination on us." RAGANO added that after his return to Tampa his office had received numerous calls from a newspaper reporter by the name of GREEN, associated with a Long Island, New York, daily. RAGANO called the reporter, who related that he had understood that when TRAFFICANTE was jailed by CASTRO in Cuba , some arrangements were made for JACK RUBY to be flown from Dallas to Cuba to expedite his release, since RUBY was friendly with CASTRO. The reporter exclaimed to RAGANO, "Don't you see the significance of this contact in connection with the Communists and La Cosa Nostra being involved in the presidential assassination?" RAGANO stated he told the reporter he was completely off base because he (RAGANO) had been involved in attempting to get TRAFFICANTE back to Florida from the Cuban prison, and that this was done through an individual in Miami who was close to CASTRO before the revolution. RAGANO said he later told this story to TRAFFICANTE, pointing out that he was not very far from wrong since he had told MARCELLO he would some day be blamed for the assassination.

c. Weapons

RAGANO indicated that TRAFFICANTE at no time carries a gun with him and that he does not even carry a pen knife.

d. TRAFFICANTE's feelings

Mr. RAGANO said that TRAFFICANTE has expressed the belief that eventually he will be the victim of a "frameup" on the part of law enforcement agencies anxious to put him in jail. He said that TRAFFICANTE leaves his car unlocked and very frequently his home unlocked and he has told him on numerous occasions that he should not do this, but TRAFFICANTE has said that if they want to get into the house or the car, whether locked or not, they can get in without any trouble.

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ENCLOSURE